CLAIMS

1. A contact lens including an optical portion situated in a center portion thereof and a peripheral portion situated about the optical portion, and employing a ballast mechanism whereby an overall center of gravity is shifted from a geometrical center axis to stabilize the lens in the circumferential direction during wear, the contact lens characterized in that:

on a lens front surface, (i) a circular optical portion front surface forming the optical portion, and (ii) a peripheral front surface of annular shape forming the peripheral portion are respectively formed with substantially constant diametrical dimensions about the geometrical center axis of the lens in front view of the lens; a cross sectional shape of the peripheral front surface vary in the circumferential direction; and a thickness dimension of the peripheral portion varies in the circumferential direction to thereby shift the center of gravity from the lens geometrical center axis.

2. A contact lens according to claim 1, wherein the optical portion front surface is formed with a center of curvature at a location away from the geometrical center axis of the lens in a same direction as a direction of shift of the center of gravity of the peripheral portion.

3. A contact lens according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the peripheral portion is composed of a first peripheral portion connected to an outer junction of the optical portion, and a second peripheral portion connected to an outer junction of the first peripheral portion and extending out to an edge portion, wherein the first peripheral portion and the second peripheral portion are each of annular shape of substantially constant diametrical dimension around the lens geometrical center axis, with a lens front surface

of the first peripheral portion having an aspheric cross section, while a lens front surface of the second peripheral portion has a spheric cross section.

4. A contact lens according to claim 3, wherein a difference between a minimum value and a maximum value for lens thickness at an inner junction of the second peripheral portion is no more than 0.3 mm around an entire circumference.

5. A contact lens according to claim 3 or 4, wherein a cross sectional shape of the second peripheral portion is substantially constant in the circumferential direction.

6. A contact lens according to any one of claims 1-5, wherein a lens front surface and/or lens back surface of the optical portion is constituted as a toric surface.

7. A contact lens according to any one of claims 1-6, wherein a lens front surface and/or lens back surface of the optical portion is constituted as a multifocal aspherical surface.

8. A method of manufacturing a contact lens according to any one of claims 1-7, wherein a forming die of synthetic resin is produced using a metal mold whose entire cavity-forming face has been continuously machined through a lathe turning process by turning about a single axis, whereby the lens front surface including the optical portion front surface and the peripheral portion front surface are formed in the forming die by means of the cavity-forming face of the metal mold; and the contact lens is molded using the forming die.